(e) whether some 20-29 countries have agreed to send the troops to Iraq for peace keeping including India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (e) On the question of the possible deployment of Indian troops in Iraq many diverse views have been expressed. The Government has also consulted the U.N., the U.S., Iraq's neighbours and Iraqis. Taking all the relevant factors and views into consideration, Government made a decision on July 14, as follows:

"The Government of India has given careful thought to the question of sending Indian troops to Iraq.

Our longer term national interest, our concern for the people of Iraq, our long-standing ties with the Gulf region as a whole, as well as our growing dialogue and strengthened ties with the U.S. have been key elements in this consideration.

India remains ready to respond to the urgent needs of the Iraqi people for stability, security, political progress and economic reconstruction. Were there be an explicit UN mandate for the purpose, the Government of India could consider the deployment of our troops in Iraq.

In the meanwhile, Government of India is ready to contribute to the restoration of infrastructure, medical, health, educational, communications and other civilian needs of the Iraqi people. As a concrete gesture of our support to the Iraqi people, we are already planning to set up, jointly with Jordan, a hospital in Najaf in Iraq."

Identification of issues for talks with China

†473. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether prior to the Prime Minister's China visit Government had identified such issues on which talks were to be held with the Chinese leaders;

(b) if so, the details of such issues; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the reasons for not including the issues like the occupation of Sikkim, occupation on the land of Arunachal Pradesh, China's view on Mac Mohan line, supply of arms to Pakistan by China, etc. in the talks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (c) During his visit to China, Prime Minister exchanged view with the top leadership of the People's Republic of China on bilateral and multilateral issues of mutual concern. A Joint Declaration on Principles for Relations and Comprehensive Cooperation between India and China was signed by the two Prime Ministers. Ten agreements were also signed in the presence of the two Prime Ministers, namely: (i) MoU on Simplifying Visa Procedures; (ii) MoU on Espanding Border Trade; (iii) MoU on Cooperation betwen the Ministry of Law and Justice of India and the Supreme People's Prosecution Service of China; (iv) Executive Programme for Educational Cooperation and Exchanges (2003-06); (v) Executive Programme for Cultural Exchanges (2003-05); (vi) MoU for the Reciprocal Establishment of Cultural Centres in Capitals; (vii) MoU for Enhanced Cooperation in the field of Renewable Energy; (viii) MoU for Cooperation in the field of Ocean Science and Technology; (ix) MoU for Cooperation between the Department of Science and Technology of india and the National Science Foundation of China; and (x) protocol on Phytosanitary Requirements for Exporting Mangoes from India to China.

The two sides agreed to address differences through peaceful means in a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable manner.

Visit of U.S. team to discuss sending troops to Iraq

474. DR. AKHILESH DAS:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during Deputy Prime Minister's visit to USA, it was decided that in view of the priority attached to the India's own defence needs, a U.S. team would be sent to India to discuss the desirability and feasibility of sending a peace keeping force by India to Iraq;

(b) if so, whether such U.S. team has since visited India; and

(c) the outcome of their visit, if any?